

# ABSTRACT

[0087] A method and system for quantifying the performance of a component adapted to  
5 function as a node in a communications network where the component is represented by a  
virtual distance (x) according to the following formula:

$$x = \frac{S_{i+1} - S_i}{IS}$$

10 where the virtual distance x is a representation of a metric that relates to intrinsic properties of  
the component.

1015442